

July



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The 2005 Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair opened in Franklin on July 17.

said it could pick up during the rest of the year. Building activity was particularly intense in Greenwood.

Elson Arouse, a 15-month-old Haitian boy, was doing well after surgery to remove a tumor connected to his gums that made it difficult for him to eat and drink. Chapel Hill United Methodist Church in Indianapolis helped bring the toddler to Riley Hospital for Children.

July 12
Dress for Success Indianapolis, a chapter of the national nonprofit organization, helped women gain employment by donating professional business attire. Greenwood resident Dianna Brooks said that most women who come to the boutique are in awe of what the shop has.

The city of Franklin planned to spend more than \$7 million on road, park and sewer projects east of Interstate 65 to attract new businesses.

July 13
Board members of Franklin Community schools weighed three options for new and renovated buildings that cost \$64 million to \$88 million, according to estimates.

Greenwood was one of several finalists for Money Magazine's 100 "Best Places to Live" list. The city, along with Fort Wayne, Indianapolis and South Bend, did not make the cut for the final list.

Center Grove school officials considered closing Maple Grove Elementary school earlier than planned and sending students to the new elementary being built at Whiteland and Saddle Club roads. Officials rethought earlier plans because enrollment in the elementary schools was not growing as quickly as anticipated.

July 14
A new ministry helped Hispanic families who made Greenwood their home since 2002. Margarita Hart launched the new program that helped families get health care, learn English and succeed at school. Partnership for a Healthier Johnson County, along with Hart's ministry, Esperanza en Jesucristo, applied for a grant to help provide prenatal care and education to Hispanic women.

July 15
Franklin minister the Rev. Kent Kirchmeyer of First Mount Pleasant Baptist Church was stabbed by a man police believed was asking

for money. Kirchmeyer was treated and released from Johnson Memorial Hospital after receiving stitches for a stab wound to his abdomen.

July 16-17
Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews was grand marshal at the county fair parade themed "Where Smiles are Shared." The parade kicked off the weeklong Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair.

Police were still searching for the man they believed stabbed a Franklin minister when the man came to the First Mount Pleasant Baptist Church seeking money.

Local pastors said they wanted to provide open doors to church members but felt they needed to keep them closed to protect workers after the choking death of a Whiteland minister, break-ins at seven Franklin churches in June and the stabbing of a Franklin minister.

July 18
For some families, the 4-H fair was a vacation. Families brought their livestock to the fairgrounds early in the week, and the rest of the days until judging were spent cleaning and keeping an eye on their animals.

Indiana State Police were investigating what led to the fatal shooting of 52-year-old Richard Burton by a Shelby County sheriff's deputy. Burton refused to pull over when the deputy tried to stop his car, said state police Sgt. Michael Burns in a news release.

July 19
Suburban children who did not own livestock or live on a farm could lease a llama or raise fish for a 4-H animal project during the Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair.

A man and woman from Ohio drowned in an apartment pool near the southside Cheeseburger in Paradise, where they were training to be managers. An apartment maintenance worker found Michael Fitzpatrick, 27, and Megan Piller, 23, in the pool. Autopsies showed the deaths were accidental.

July 20
Franklin resident Renate Glenn won overall champion at the annual baking contest with her peanut twist creation at the Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair. Glenn is a diabetic and

couldn't taste the award-winning creation she entered.

A Franklin kindergarten center was still being debated even after a transportation study showed it would be too expensive to get students from all corners of the district to a centralized location, said at least one school board member and parents who opposed the projects.

The Greenwood City Council backed buying land for what could be Greenwood's largest park. A new pool was still an option but the parks department planned to go back to the public to ask what they wanted in the park.

July 21
Hundreds of people volunteered their time and effort at the Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair doing jobs from answering phones to preparing the grandstand for tractor pulls.

Chiefs of the White River Township and Bargersville fire departments proposed changes to local regulations to help prevent the spread of fires to neighboring homes and buildings. One change would space out homes more by making side lots larger. Three other changes would affect fire safety in apartments and condominiums, restaurants and bars built in White River Township.

July 22
Parents Dewayne and Maleta Schmidt said they did not believe choosing prayer instead of medical care for their sick newborn daughter was wrong and would do it again if a similar situation arose. The couple's attorney asked that they receive probation and monitoring from a child welfare worker. Deputy prosecutor Daylon Welliver said probation was too light and that a sentence needed to be imposed to send out the message that what they did was wrong.

July 23-24
All the buildings and two-thirds of the roof were up for the new Franklin Community High School nearly a year after the project began. More than 200 workers were on site between Simon and Branigan roads finishing the school that will likely be done in December 2006.

A storm rolled through Johnson County, forcing fair visitors to scramble. Lightning was blamed for two fires on County Road 200S in Bargersville and Foxmoor Place in White River Township.

July 25
Temperatures topped 90 degrees for the 10th summer day, but heat-related incidents in Johnson County stayed at a minimum. St. Francis Hospital and Johnson Memorial Hospital said they had not seen a notable increase in the number of people coming in for heat exhaustion and dehydration.

Johnson County could need its own Catholic high school if families continue to move into the area and new homes are built, according to a Catholic high school principal, but funding issues were critical.

July 26
The increase to 70 mph on Interstate 65 would save a little time in morning commute, but in most cases, speeding tickets would rise depending on who pulled over drivers. Speeding 25 mph over the limit meant a \$180 ticket in Johnson County but more than \$200 for 26 mph over the limit if assigned to the Franklin City Court.

A \$1 million grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation would help build a network of biking and walking trails in Greenwood.

Local youth-camp counselors had to

search for ways to keep children cool in 90-degree weather and reduce outdoor physical activity as well as time in the sun.

July 27
Manufacturing company NSK Precision America planned to move its corporate headquarters from the Chicago suburbs to Franklin after being offered tax breaks and economic incentives from Indiana and Johnson County officials.

Investigators hoped DNA testing would identify the man who stabbed a Franklin minister, the Rev. Kent Kirchmeyer of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, by matching the DNA to an offender who already had served time in a state or federal prison.

Franklin needed up to \$3 million in additional taxes to avoid budget cuts in 2006, said clerk-treasurer Janet Alexander. Officials hoped to convince the state they needed the money based on legislation passed in 2003 that froze the amount of property taxes a municipality could collect.

July 28
Three companies planned to pay nearly a half-million dollars in the next 10 years to advertise on panels surrounding Center Grove High School's new scoreboard that shows instant replays on a giant display screen. Center for Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine's agreed to spend \$250,000 and be the official team physicians during the 10-year period.

Suspect Galen Kroger, 18, of Columbus held around 20 Centra Credit Union customers and employees hostage. Kroger had pointed his weapon at customers, and shot at police. The incident ended without any injuries. Kroger was arrested.

July 29
Senior citizens like Greenwood resident Elma Paul saved money by purchasing drugs from abroad. Others shopped for the best drug prices locally. Paul said her biggest expense was more than \$1,000 a month in prescription medication with no insurance beyond Medicaid.

Macy's Department store in Greenwood Park Mall will be put on the market next year. The Greenwood store was one of 27 Macy's stores nationwide that Federated Department Stores decided to sell based on duplicate locations.

Police suspected a Greenwood United Methodist Church employee spent up to \$600,000 on unauthorized church expenses and took some of the money for himself.

July 30-31
Whiteland graduate Mike Miller took a job with England-based Holset Engineering owned by Cummins Inc. in Columbus. He runs the financial operations for four company branches in the United Kingdom, China, India and a soon-to-be office in South Carolina.

Lance Cpl. Derek DeBoy, a 2001 graduate of Franklin Community High School, supported the reconstruction of Iraq as a member of civil operations for the Second Marine Expeditionary Force. He wrote from Camp Fallujah that living conditions weren't too bad by Marine Corps standards.

Johnson County homeowners who needed to stop or start paying for flood insurance hadn't been determined. The Federal Emergency Management Agency was updating decade-old government maps to decide which homes and businesses were in flood-prone areas. Those property owners would have to buy flood insurance, which isn't covered in homeowners' coverage insurance and can cost several hundred dollars.

August

Aug. 1

Three-year-old Audra Schneck of Franklin welcomed home Spec. Greg Schneck, or "Uncle Bubby," from Bosnia after a 17-month tour for protective service detail.

Aug. 2

Police expected to get calls about crime when hundreds of new residents moved into a community, but in Johnson County theft reports started coming in as soon as construction workers were on site.

A Greenwood couple reportedly stored marijuana in their home, which also served as a day care. Susan Marquez Dillard and Jeffrey Wayne Dillard were arrested on charges of possession of marijuana/hashish and maintaining a common nuisance.

Aug. 3

Many scammers targeted the elderly, according to a report issued last week by the Federal Trade Commission. Identity theft was the top fraud complaint for the fourth year in a row, said Claudia Bourne Farrell, a spokeswoman for the FTC.

Center Grove officials proposed starting the school day 30 to 45 minutes later on Wednesdays in the second semester.

Aug. 4

Franklin Fire Chief Michael Herron resigned as chief but would stay on as a captain in the fire department. Jim Reese was appointed in his place.

Volunteers from the Franklin Community Congregational Church helped repair a house in eastern Tennessee by fixing the floor and roof to make it more livable. This was the third year that the church went to the region to rebuild houses.

Aug. 5

With new state standards, kindergarten teachers no longer had time to develop students' social skills. Students, even those who can't say their ABCs at age 5, must be reading at grade level by the time their standardized test scores start counting in third grade.

Aug. 6-7

The Tree House center at Johnson Memorial Hospital offered day care for children with a slight fever, or who were recovering from other illnesses, and couldn't attend their normal daycare.

Two county men were accused of pretending to be loan brokers and taking more than \$400,000 from people in four states, including one victim in Johnson County.

Aug. 8

More than 300 Center Grove students attended the Fast Track back-to-school on Saturday and received free school supplies and T-shirts along with health screenings.

Aug. 9

Most of Greenwood's Hispanic children attended Isom Elementary School until the school board made the decision to move some of the students to Northeast Elementary.

About 10 area high school students attended World Youth Day in Germany along with 2 million other Catholic youths from around the world.

Aug. 10

Franklin's Superintendent William Patterson endorsed a kindergarten center as the best option for relieving crowding in the

elementary schools, but he didn't recommend the board approve plans to build it yet.

A 50-pound alligator was found in Berkshire Estates subdivision in White River Township, and it took workers until midnight to corral the critter. Animal control warden Shawn Donovan suspected the alligator escaped from an owner's property or was set loose on purpose.

Aug. 11

The four fire departments that serve a majority of Johnson County residents spent millions on new stations and hired more than 50 firefighters this year. They also explored how to maintain adequate staffing to meet the growing population and increase in the number of calls.

An increase in Greenwood business robberies could have been tied with a rise in methamphetamine use. Since 2003, Greenwood business robberies jumped from four in 2001 to 14 in 2003.

Aug. 12

Tom Kite, a lieutenant at the Greenwood Fire Department, announced he intended to run for county commissioner.

Aug. 13-14

Dewayne and Maleta Schmidt were sentenced to serve two years in a work-release program after their child died when the couple chose prayer instead of medical care. The couple will spend nights in the Johnson County Community Corrections facility and go to work or scheduled appointments during the day. The judge also ruled that the parents must obtain medical care if a health emergency arises for their two other children.

Kelli Zellman, treasurer of a Center Grove elementary school's parent-teacher organization, was accused of writing checks to herself and taking nearly \$40,000 from the group's fund.

Aug. 15

A helicopter crashed at the Greenwood Municipal Airport after the pilot lost control while landing. The crash happened at the end of a 10- to 12-mile sightseeing tour, which was part of the Experimental Aircraft Association open house.

Aug. 16

More than 16,800 Johnson County students started school in Center Grove, Franklin, Edinburg and Clark-Pleasant.

Indianapolis-based Centex Homes planned to build 422 homes on farmland north of Bargersville, next to the site for a new Center Grove elementary school.

Aug. 17

About 1,000 new students showed up in Johnson County schools for the start of the year. The increase forced one Clark-Pleasant school to use four portable classrooms and one district's elementary principals to move out of their offices.

Aug. 18

With gasoline prices in Indiana averaging \$2.60 per gallon, consumers were concerned about how far a tank of gasoline would get them when purchasing new cars, said Aaron York, a Honda sales associate. During July, 50 sport utility vehicle owners traded in their keys at the Honda dealership for more fuel-efficient cars.

Greenwood Mayor Charles Henderson wanted to pay \$225,000 to do a head count in

selected parts of the city. He proposed the special census so the city could get more tax dollars from the state before the next federal census in 2010.

Aug. 19

Johnson County was the only county adjacent to Indianapolis that requested a hearing to allow residents to tell federal regulators what time zone they preferred before the clocks change in April or October.

Chris Kinnett, who was charged with attracting new jobs and businesses to Johnson County, resigned as executive director of the Johnson County Development Corp. Kinnett said he and his wife were exploring their own business opportunity. During the past three years, the city of Franklin has lost more than 1,600 jobs.

Aug. 20-21

Clark-Pleasant Academy, a school for Whiteland high school students who either have dropped out or were on their way to quitting, opened with 12 students.

State police scoured the cornfields of Johnson County and unearthed about \$300,000 worth of marijuana plants. The marijuana likely was being grown to be sold, because the pot fields were too large for personal use, Trooper Brian Harshman said.

Aug. 22

High grass and unkempt yards topped residents' gripe list, which also included smelly trash, annoying animals and abandoned homes in Franklin and Greenwood. Last year, Franklin received 221 complaints and Greenwood had more than 400 in 2003.

Aug. 23

Teachers and principals in some Johnson County school districts planned to spend the year talking about what should be taken into consideration when giving students grades.

Two companies finalized leases to open in the former ArvinMeritor plant in Franklin by September. Whether jobs would be newly created or existing employees would be working for the companies remained unclear.

Aug. 24

Franklin considered charging fees for trash pickup and water hydrants and as much as a 33 percent property tax hike to fund the 2006 budget. Charging residents fees for these services would bring in about \$1 million.

More Franklin police officers and firefighters were needed for the departments to effectively serve a growing city, the departments' chiefs said. Each new firefighter and police officer would cost about \$59,832.

Spending \$58 million on three school building projects had some Franklin residents concerned about the impact on their property tax bill.

Aug. 25

The large number of new homes appeared to have driven the prices of homes sold in Johnson County up to 10 percent in the first half of the year.

A committee of about six parishioners from Our Lady of the Greenwood and SS. Francis and Clare in White River Township formed to get input from area priests and residents to see if there was interest in a new college-prep Catholic high school.

Jeremy Doyle, 24, was one of four U.S. soldiers killed Aug. 18 when a bomb exploded near their vehicle in Samarra, Iraq, about 65 miles north of Baghdad. Doyle was a former student at Decatur Central High School in Marion County.

Aug. 26

More than 170 volunteers from 24 Johnson County companies spent the day painting, cleaning and doing repairs for charitable organizations across the county as a part of United Way of Johnson County's Day of Caring.

The military proposed a new Armed Forces Reserve center between Greenwood and Franklin if land is available. The new facility would replace an Army Reserve center and two National Guard centers at Camp Atterbury in Edinburg.

County council members cut health insurance for county employees by \$700,000 last week to add to the \$2.4 million needed to be cut to erase a budget deficit for next year and keep a 3 percent raise for county employees.

Aug. 27-28

Former ArvinMeritor workers looked back a year after the Franklin plant closed. Candy Campbell, who worked at ArvinMeritor for three decades, still didn't understand why the plant closed but moved on like many others. Workers described the transition as difficult but not as difficult as they imagined.

Greenwood and Franklin officials put limits on employees using city cars for personal purposes because of increasing gas prices. Greenwood Mayor Charles Henderson restricted officers' patrol car use after hours.

Aug. 29

Less money from the state and more students in the county's schools meant some teachers had as many as 34 students in a class. **Gas prices averaged \$2.60 per gallon during the week.** Drivers who brought meals to the homebound began feeling the squeeze because they don't get compensated for mileage.

Aug. 30

Motorists anticipated a hike in gas prices because of Hurricane Katrina. Oil prices hit \$70 per barrel for the first time in two years as Hurricane Katrina blew through New Orleans, shutting down oil rigs and refineries.

The Johnson County Child Abuse Prevention Council sought artistic suggestions for a memorial to honor victims of child abuse.

Aug. 31

Franklin man Steven Andrews felt Hurricane Katrina's wrath that devastated large parts of Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast in his hotel in Pensacola, Fla. Andrews lost air conditioning, light and hot water during the storm.

Two levees broke and sent water flooding into the streets a full day after New Orleans appeared to have escaped widespread destruction from Hurricane Katrina. Gov. Kathleen Blanco called the situation heartbreaking.

Center Grove High School didn't get a huge scoreboard with instant replay for the football field this year because not enough sponsors signed on to pay for it, said Superintendent Candace Mihn-Baer, who said the school board needed to focus on other issues.

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